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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/079,840	02/19/2002	Scott A. Wellman	4082-000001	5458

27572 7590 06/23/2004

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EXAMINER
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BOYD, JENNIFER A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1771

DATE MAILED: 06/23/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Advisory Action</b>	Application No. 10/079,840	Applicant(s) WELLMAN ET AL.	
	Examiner Jennifer A Boyd	Art Unit 1771	<i>eb</i>

--The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

THE REPLY FILED 6/2/2004 FAILS TO PLACE THIS APPLICATION IN CONDITION FOR ALLOWANCE. Therefore, further action by the applicant is required to avoid abandonment of this application. A proper reply to a final rejection under 37 CFR 1.113 may only be either: (1) a timely filed amendment which places the application in condition for allowance; (2) a timely filed Notice of Appeal (with appeal fee); or (3) a timely filed Request for Continued Examination (RCE) in compliance with 37 CFR 1.114.

**PERIOD FOR REPLY** [check either a) or b)]

- a) ☒ The period for reply expires 3 months from the mailing date of the final rejection.
- b) ☐ The period for reply expires on: (1) the mailing date of this Advisory Action, or (2) the date set forth in the final rejection, whichever is later. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of the final rejection. ONLY CHECK THIS BOX WHEN THE FIRST REPLY WAS FILED WITHIN TWO MONTHS OF THE FINAL REJECTION. See MPEP 706.07(f).

Extensions of time may be obtained under 37 CFR 1.136(a). The date on which the petition under 37 CFR 1.136(a) and the appropriate extension fee have been filed is the date for purposes of determining the period of extension and the corresponding amount of the fee. The appropriate extension fee under 37 CFR 1.17(a) is calculated from: (1) the expiration date of the shortened statutory period for reply originally set in the final Office action; or (2) as set forth in (b) above, if checked. Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of the final rejection, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

1. ☐ A Notice of Appeal was filed on \_\_\_\_\_. Appellant's Brief must be filed within the period set forth in 37 CFR 1.192(a), or any extension thereof (37 CFR 1.191(d)), to avoid dismissal of the appeal.
2. ☒ The proposed amendment(s) will not be entered because:
- (a) ☐ they raise new issues that would require further consideration and/or search (see NOTE below);
  - (b) ☐ they raise the issue of new matter (see Note below);
  - (c) ☐ they are not deemed to place the application in better form for appeal by materially reducing or simplifying the issues for appeal; and/or
  - (d) ☐ they present additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims.

NOTE: See Continuation Sheet.

3. ☐ Applicant's reply has overcome the following rejection(s): \_\_\_\_\_.
4. ☐ Newly proposed or amended claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ would be allowable if submitted in a separate, timely filed amendment canceling the non-allowable claim(s).
5. ☒ The a) ☐ affidavit, b) ☐ exhibit, or c) ☒ request for reconsideration has been considered but does NOT place the application in condition for allowance because: See Continuation Sheet.
6. ☐ The affidavit or exhibit will NOT be considered because it is not directed SOLELY to issues which were newly raised by the Examiner in the final rejection.
7. ☒ For purposes of Appeal, the proposed amendment(s) a) ☒ will not be entered or b) ☐ will be entered and an explanation of how the new or amended claims would be rejected is provided below or appended.

The status of the claim(s) is (or will be) as follows:

Claim(s) allowed: \_\_\_\_\_.

Claim(s) objected to: \_\_\_\_\_.

Claim(s) rejected: 1-10 and 14-20.

Claim(s) withdrawn from consideration: \_\_\_\_\_.

8. ☐ The drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is a) ☐ approved or b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
9. ☐ Note the attached Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_.
10. ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Continuation of 2. NOTE: The proposed amendment would not overcome the previously set forth rejections as detailed in paragraphs 2  
8 of the previous Office Action dated February 2, 2004.

Continuation of 5. does NOT place the application in condition for allowance because: The Applicant's Arguments have been considered but are not persuasive. All previously set forth rejections as detailed in paragraphs 2 - 8 of the previous Office Action dated February 2, 2004 are maintained. In regards to the rejection of claims 1, 5, 9 - 10 as being anticipated by Christianson (US 5,584,897), it should be noted that the Applicant does not state limitations in claims 1, 5 and 9 - 10 that require that the loops are vinyl ester and that the laminate contains discontinuous fibers and chopped fibers. Those limitations are found in claims 6 and 14 and claims 2, 8, 14 and 18. In regards to the rejection of claims 1 - 2, 6 - 8, 14 and 17 - 20 as being anticipated by Zurbuchen (US 5,271,300), it should be noted that all the requirements have been met by Zurbuchen and the Applicant does not claim that the materials on both the interior walls and exterior portions are the same. In regards to the rejection of claims 3 - 4 and 15 - 16 as being unpatentable over Zurbuchen (US 5,271,300), the Examiner has equated the first surface to the core of Zurbuchen which contains the chopped fibers. Therefore, chopped fibers are present on the first surface of the laminate thus not requiring any manipulation of the Zurbuchen reference.

*Jeff Borpl*  
6/20/04

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